

MOONLIGHT BASIN

LAND STEWARDSHIP PLAN

In 1992 Moonlight Basin Ranch was purchased as a 25,000 acre tract from Plum Creek. Historically much of the land has been logged by the previous owners. Limited portions of Moonlight Basin have been developed since the original purchase. The majority of development has centered on Section 24, with the exception of the 20-acre lot subdivisions of Ulery's Lakes, Strawberry Ridge and Timber Ridge.

VEGETATIVE HEALTH

Most of Moonlight Basin was logged before it was purchased by the present owners. Most of the thrust of future management has been directed towards the revegetation of the lands.

Moonlight Basin, with regard to previous projects, has maintained a strong commitment toward the control and eradication of noxious weeds. Noxious weeds have been well managed and localized infestations contained and eliminated through the use of herbicides.

Revegetation efforts will be designed to aid in prevention of soil erosion, to encourage prompt growth to lessen invader species, to provide visual enhancement during summer months, and to incorporate native species to provide forage for wildlife and replace lost vegetation.

Reseeding will be completed on all disturbed areas including non-commercially landscaped areas such as ski runs, cut and fill slopes, pipeline corridors, culverts, and road right of ways. Moonlight Basin has implemented and been successful in the revegetation of disturbed sites with previous development projects. Every effort will be made to continue this effort to maintain as much native vegetation as possible to revegetate disturbed areas with approved seed mixes, and to utilize a landscape plan that incorporates as many native, locally adapted species as possible.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Access is provided to Moonlight Basin by existing public and private roads. The Moonlight Basin entrance is accessed from the east by the Big Sky Spur Road which is an extension of State Highway MT 64. Jack Creek Road, a private road from Ennis, provides secondary and emergency access year-round from the west.

Access roads within Moonlight Basin are privately owned, and maintained by Moonlight Basin Ranch. Access and use is granted by easements to all lot owners in Moonlight Basin. All access roads are open year-round except for Southside Road, which crosses the Moonlight Basin Ski Area and is open from May 1 to October 31.

WILDLIFE

Moonlight Basin includes residential and recreational developments. Strict covenants are in place to protect wildlife and reduce wildlife-human interaction. Moonlight Basin takes all reasonable efforts to educate homeowners and employees, and avoids taking actions that would jeopardize wildlife habitat security. Moonlight Basin works closely with the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and with the US Forest Service.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL USES

Portions of Moonlight Basin were historically used for summer cattle rangeland. These areas were primarily located along Jack Creek and in the western quarter of the project boundary.

Logging was another historic agricultural use. Plum Creek logged areas including old growth lodgepole pine, subalpine fire and Douglas fir at low to moderate elevations.

There are no agricultural water use facilities.

RECYCLING

Moonlight Basin encourages recycling of waste products and attempts to make owners and the public aware of recycling facilities within the area. Recycling bins are available throughout the Moonlight Lodge and Madison Village, as well as at the waste disposal site for owners to use.

PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES

Moonlight Basin is located in a mountainous area, which is in essence where water begins. New construction by Moonlight Basin utilizes measures to eliminate or minimize erosion of soil into waterways. Strict covenants and design guidelines are in place to protect waterways before, during and after construction on homesites. These regulations are discussed with Moonlight contractors and with homeowner construction representatives and are monitored throughout the course of construction.

Moonlight Basin implements Best Management Practices during development which should limit or prevent increased sediment loads into streams of the Jack Creek watershed. Best Management Practices are geared toward covering exposed soil and diverting runoff during and immediately following construction.